

Appln No. 09/578,355
Amdt date November 4, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 4, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the final Office action dated August 4, 2005, the Examiner rejected all of the then pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103. In an effort to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant submits the above amendments to the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant requests entry and consideration of these amendments after final rejection.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 19, 25, 30, 33, 38, 41, 46 and 49. In addition, Applicant has added claims 55 - 58 to reintroduced previously canceled dependent claims 23, 31, 39 and 47. Reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested for claims 19 - 21, 24 - 30, 32 - 38, 40 - 46 and 48 - 58 that are now pending in this application.

Response to the Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 19 - 21, 24, 30, 32, 38, 40, 46, 48 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanagawa, U.S. Patent No. 5,128,999, in view of Hoellermann, JP 07-087598. Claims 19, 30, 38 and 46 are independent.

Each of the independent claims, as amended, are directed to an audio system or a method for reproducing a number of independent original audio signals at a number of reproduction points wherein "the number of audio signals is at least three and is equal to the number of reproduction points" and wherein "the independent original audio signals comprise a bass audio signal that is not to be delayed."

In contrast, Hoellermann shows a pseudo-4-channel stereo system in which 2-channel stereo signals are delayed to make pseudo-4-channel stereo signals, and each input signal is delayed and adjusted in volume so as to obtain an optimum listening condition at the listening point. In Hoellermann, a microphone is placed at the listener's position and a delay time and a signal level of the sound emitted from each speaker are measured by the microphone by reproducing a pulse signal and a noise signal from each one of the four speakers in turn. The controller 8 adjusts the delay time and the level of the signal to each speaker in accordance with the measured value. Hoellermann fails to disclose the mixture of the signals to the speakers.

Appln No. 09/578,355
Amdt date November 4, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 4, 2005

Yanagawa also discloses a pseudo-4-channel stereo system in which 4-channel signals produced from 2-channel stereo signals are further subjected to a steering emphasis process to obtain proper extent feeling and sound image movement as a reproduction sound for a video image.

Kuusama discloses a home theater system in which signals are delayed and are level controlled by a delay and level control unit in order to enable a small speaker to reproduce bass signal.

Accordingly, Hoellermann and Yanagawa fail to disclose that the number of original audio signals and the number of reproduction points are the same, where the number is greater than or equal to three, as set forth in independent claims 19, 30, 38 and 46, and Kuusama fails to disclose the structure in which the bass signal is not processed as set forth in independent claims 19, 30, 38 and 46.

In view of the above, independent claims 19, 30, 38 and 46 are not obvious in view of the cited references considered either separately or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 19, 30, 38 and 46 are patentable over these references.

The claims that depend on claims 19, 30, 38 and 46 also are patentable over the cited references for the reasons set forth above. In addition, these dependent claims are patentable over these references for the additional limitations that the dependent claims contain.


Appln No. 09/578,355
Amdt date November 4, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 4, 2005

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the cited references and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration and reexamination of the above application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By


Stephen D. Burbach
Reg. No. 40,285
626/795-9900

SDB/vsj
VSJ PAS651295.1-11/4/05 4:13 PM